Ministry of Power for the Tenth Plan. This includes a budgetary support of Rs. 25,000 crore. The corresponding figures for the Ninth Plan were Rs. 45591 crore and Rs. 14943 crore respectively.

* Advance action on identification of the Eleventh Plan projects has been taken.

* As per Electricity Act, 2003 the requirement of according Techno-Economic Clearance by Central Electricity Authority has been dispensed with for thermal generation.

* Planning Commission has delegated full powers to State Governments for approval of Power Projects without any ceiling. Clearance from Planning Commission is to be restricted only to those Hydro Electric Projects where inter-State issues are involved.

* To facilitate Private Sector Participation in power generation, Inter Institutional Group (IIG) has been formed.

Setting up Hydroelectric Power Project by NHPC with foreign companies

2314. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) are negotiating with top foreign companies for setting up of Hydroelectric Power Projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details of companies associated with the project; and

(c) what will be installed capacity of each power project with locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

National Electricity Policy

2315. SHRIMATl VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Electricity Policy has been revamped;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of funding arrangements to meet to power requirements?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) A revised draft National Electricity Policy has now been formulated based on comments received on the previous draft and the objectives of the National Common Minimum Progamme. The views received from Stakeholders have also been taken into account.

Draft National Electricity Policy now formulated aims at achieving the objectives of providing access to electricity to all households in next five years, fully meeting the demand of electricity, making available supply of reliable and quality power at reasonable rates and increasing per capita consumption to over 1000 units by year 2012. It addresses the issues of rural electrification, generation, transmission, distribution, technology development, financing, private sector participation, energy conservation, promotion to renewable and non-conventional sources of energy, protection of consumers' interests etc.

Draft National Electricity Policy envisages stepping up public sector investments, both at the Central Government and State Governments. A sizeable investment from private sector is also envisaged considering the required expansion of the sector.

Small Hydro Elecricity Projects

2316. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have devised any scheme to encourage Independent Power Producers for setting up of Small Hydro Electricity Projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such projects set up by private producers, State-wise, as on 31st March, 2004;

(d) the total capacity of power generated by these units;

(e) whether NHPC propose to purchase power from these private power producers; and

(f) if so, the details of power purchase agreements entered into by NHPC with the private producers?